

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Health and Hospitals Bureau of Health Services Financing

Professional Services Program
Children's Immunizations
Reimbursement Methodology
(LAC 50:IX.8305)

The Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing amends LAC 50:IX.8305 in the Medical Assistance Program as authorized by R.S. 36:254 and pursuant to Title XIX of the Social Security Act. This Emergency Rule is promulgated in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:953(B)(1) et seq., and shall be in effect for the maximum period allowed under the Act or until adoption of the final Rule, whichever occurs first.

The Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing amended the reimbursement methodology governing Medicaid payments to providers for the administration of vaccines to children, and incorporated these provisions into the *Louisiana Administrative Code* in a codified format (*Louisiana Register*, Volume 35, Number 1).

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) requires states to reimburse certain primary care services, including the administration of specified children's immunizations, at the rates that would be paid for the services (if they were covered) under Medicare. In compliance with PPACA and federal regulations, the department amends the provisions governing the reimbursement methodology for Medicaid payments to providers for the administration of certain vaccines to children to increase the reimbursement rates.

This action is being taken to avoid federal sanctions and to secure enhanced federal funding. It is anticipated that implementation of this Emergency Rule will increase expenditures in the Medicaid Program by approximately \$11,017 for state fiscal year 2012-2013.

Effective January 1, 2013, the Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing amends the provisions governing the reimbursement methodology for the administration of children's immunizations.

Title 50

PUBLIC HEALTH—MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

Part IX. Professional Services Program

Subpart 7. Immunizations

Chapter 83. Children's Immunizations (Reserved)

§8305. Reimbursement Methodology

A. – B. ...

C. Effective for dates of service on or after January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2014, certain vaccine administration services shall be reimbursed at the payment rates that apply to such services and physicians under Part B of Title XVIII of the Social Security Act (Medicare).

1. The following vaccine service codes, when covered by the Medicaid Program, shall be reimbursed at the Medicare rate:

a. 90460, 90461, 90471, 90472, 90473 and 90474;

or

b. their successor codes as specified by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

2. Qualifying Criteria. Reimbursement shall be limited to specified services furnished by a physician, either a doctor of osteopathy or a medical doctor or under the personal supervision of a physician, who attests to a specialty or subspecialty designation in family medicine, general internal medicine or pediatrics, and also attests to meeting one or more of the following criteria:

a. certification as a specialist or subspecialist within family medicine, general internal medicine or pediatric medicine by the American Board of Medical Specialists (ABMS), the American Board of Physician Specialties (ABPS), or the American Osteopathic Association (AOA); or

b. specified evaluation and management (E&M) and vaccine services that equal at least 60 percent of total Medicaid codes paid during the most recently completed calendar year, or for newly eligible physicians the prior month.

3. Payment Methodology. For vaccines provided under the Vaccines for Children Program in calendar years 2013 and 2014, the reimbursement shall be the lesser of the:

a. Regional Maximum Administration Fee; or

b. Medicare fee schedule rate in CY 2013 or 2014 that is applicable to the office setting and reflects the mean value over all counties of the rate for each of the specified code(s) (or, if higher, the rate using the 2009 conversion factor and the 2013 and 2014 RVUs) as approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

4. The department shall make a payment to the provider for the difference between the Medicare and Medicaid rates.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 36:254 and Title XIX of the Social Security Act.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 35:71 (January 2009), amended by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing, LR 39:

Implementation of the provisions of this Rule may be contingent upon the approval of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), if it is determined that submission to CMS for review and approval is required.

Interested persons may submit written comments to J. Ruth Kennedy, Bureau of Health Services Financing, P.O. Box 91030, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-9030. She is responsible for responding to all inquiries regarding this Emergency Rule. A copy of this Emergency Rule is available for review by interested parties at parish Medicaid offices.

Bruce D. Greenstein
Secretary

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